

Tropical Storm Nichole (02W)

Tropical Storm (TS) Nichole (02W), was the second tropical cyclone and the first named storm of 1998. This cyclone formed in the South China Sea and reached a maximum intensity of 50 kt in the Taiwan Strait before making landfall and dissipating near Xiamen, China on the 12th of July.

JTWC issued a Tropical Cyclone Formation Alert at 071700Z July on a broad area of convection in the South China Sea. The first warning was issued at 080300Z July as a 25 kt cyclone. Subsequently, TS Nichole moved steadily north-northeastward at 6 to 8 kt. Due to constricted upper-level outflow to the north, it intensified slowly reaching tropical storm intensity at 081800Z July. TS Nichole achieved maximum intensity of 50 kt at approximately 091200Z July while just offshore of the southwest coast of Taiwan. Interaction with land and associated dry air entrainment, together with increased vertical shear, weakened the cyclone rapidly and TS Nichole became an exposed low level circulation. It moved westward and dissipated over southeastern China. The final warning was issued at 122100Z July.

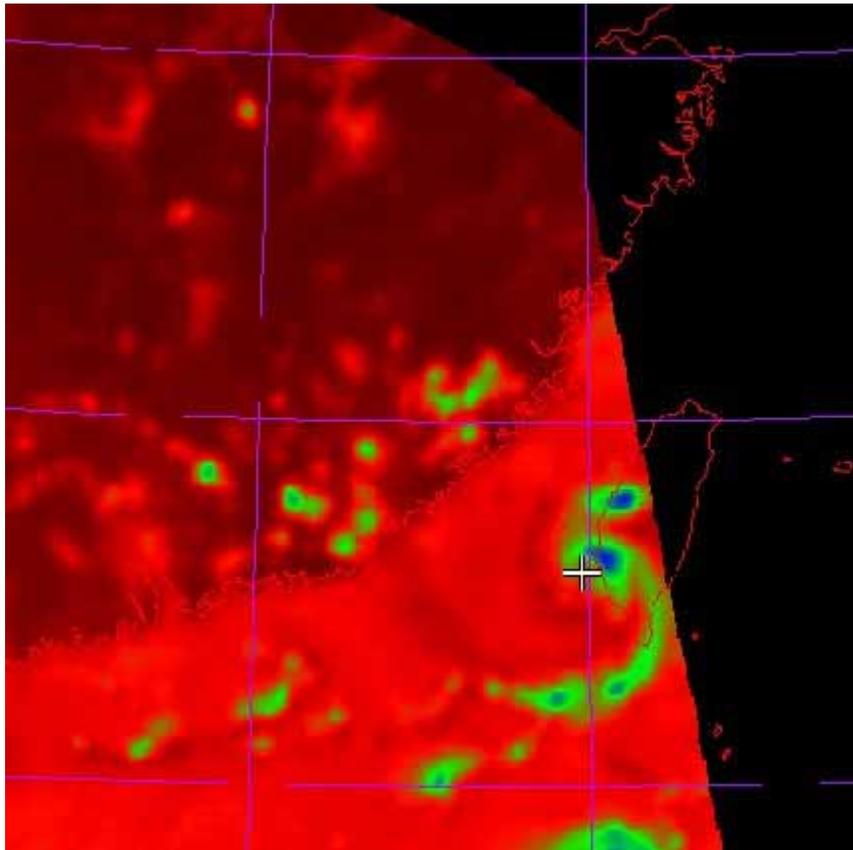


Figure 3-02-1. 090942Z July Special Sensor Microwave Imagery (SSM/I) depiction of TS Nichole at its maximum intensity of 50 kt.

